

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Julie Augeri [julieswan@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2009 4:24 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** Raised S.B. No. 1142  
**Attachments:** Julie Swanson.vcf

March 23, 2009

Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Attention: Sen. Thomas P. Gaffey and Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann

Re: Raised S.B. No. 1142, Session Year 2009

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and the Education Committee members,

Please accept this letter as testimony for my opposition to S.B. No. 1142:

*AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.*

*To delay the implementation of the in-school suspension mandate until July 1, 2011; to change the date in which a teacher is notified that his or her contract will not be renewed from April first to May first; to require that providers of school readiness programs submit space allotment reports every other month; to establish that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing; to provide that a local or regional board of education's commitment to provide special education to a child terminates upon the child's twenty-first birthday; and to eliminate certain reporting requirements on local and regional boards of education.*

I am writing in opposition to several aspects of this bill wearing two hats: a mother of a child with a disability and a special education advocate who represents students who have disabilities.

**Special education services must not terminate upon the child's twenty-first birthday:**

Here's how I would like to explain this. Let's say there's a rule that says you can only be in college until your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. So, in spite of the fact that you're in your senior year, you have to leave the program on, let's say October 7<sup>th</sup> because you just turned 21. Do you think that student should be allowed to finish their senior year? If the answer is yes, then it should be no different for people who have disabilities.

**New suspension regulations must not be delayed:**

I understand that this has been delayed for many compelling reasons. However, this has a dangerous impact for students with disabilities, who are already not receiving appropriate behavioral support.

**Burden of Proof must not be changed:**

Shifting the burden of proof will put one more barrier up against parents being able to fairly exercise

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their due process rights.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Julie Swanson

[www.yourspecialchild.com](http://www.yourspecialchild.com)



*Julie Swanson*

Julie Swanson

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